



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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For Immediate Release

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Spring-Ford Area School District Shares Important Volunteer Update

ROYERSFORD, PA – Volunteers are an essential ingredient in the success of our schools and students. In an effort to ensure student safety in our schools, the Spring-Ford Area School District will be revising the Volunteer Policy for the 2015-2016 school year. The revised policy will go into effect at the start of the 2015-2016 school year. The Community Volunteer webpage has been updated with all of the new information, Frequently Asked Questions, step-by-step instructions for the Child Abuse Clearance Report and links to all of the necessary documents. To visit the Community Volunteer webpage, please click on the VOLUNTEER INFORMATION button on the right side of the district home page.

The major changes to the revised Community Volunteer Policy include:

- **Spring-Ford Volunteer Registration and Disclosure Statement** – Each year, all volunteers will be required to complete and sign the Spring-Ford Volunteer Registration and Disclosure Statement and the Tuberculosis Exposure Risk Assessment Questionnaire. These forms must be submitted to each school that the volunteer wishes to volunteer in and will be kept on file in the main school building office.
 - [Click here](#) for the Disclosure Statement
 - [Click here](#) for the Tuberculosis Exposure Risk Assessment
- **Child Protective Services Law** – Under amendments to the state Child Protective Services law, all teachers, staff, administrators, contractors and volunteers who come into contact with students must obtain specific clearances. *Prior to participating in any volunteer opportunity*, each Spring-Ford Area School District volunteer shall be required to complete and submit the following three clearances:
 - [Act 34: PA State Background Check](#) (free for volunteers)
 - [Act 151: Child Abuse Clearance Report](#) (free for volunteers). Please note, school volunteers **WILL NOT** be required to provide a payment code. When prompted, select "Volunteer Having Contact with Children," then selected "Other" under Volunteer Category and type Spring-Ford Area School District in the Agency Name section.
 - [Act 114: FBI Criminal Clearance Report](#) (\$27.50 for volunteers)

To ensure student safety in our schools, SFASD is requiring volunteers to obtain **all three clearances**. The cost for these required background clearances shall be covered by the volunteer. All clearances must be received **BEFORE** the volunteer activity. All visitors and volunteers will still be required to use the Raptor Visitor Management System upon entering each school.

The Community Volunteer webpage provides greater detail into the revisions of the policy as well as direct links to all of the necessary forms. If you are new to volunteering in Spring-Ford schools, please consider lending your time to our students through one of our many parent organizations such as our elementary Parent/Teacher Organizations or Home and School Associations, the Spring-Ford Music Association, Spring-Ford Booster Club, SNAP Parent Group, and many more! Learn more about volunteering in Spring-Ford online at www.spring-ford.net.

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